

and at least one pie shaped zone. The cited references provide air “intermittently” to zones. The Office must construe the actual words in the claims and not substitute words that are not the same. The Applicant’s use of the word “alternately” requires both types of zones, pie and donut, and conveys patentable meaning that is distinct from “intermittent.” Therefore, claims 1 and 11 should be allowable.

Claims 2 and 20 require a wall liner. Although the Office says Bailey et al. discloses a wall liner, the Applicant cannot find it in the reference, and suggests it is not present in Bailey et al. Therefore, Claim 2 is unobvious and should be allowable.

Claims 7 and 8 are dependent process claims that claim the period of time necessary to for the donut zone and the pie zones. These time values are not found anywhere in the cited references, and are not addressed by the Office. Nor is the air pressure value of Claim 10 addressed by the Office. Therefore, the Office has not made a prima facie case.

Claims 12 – 18 claim details of the fluidized bed zones that are not addressed by the Office at all. Therefore, the Office has not made a prima facie case with respect to these claims.

Claim 29 requires that the surface area of each zone is less than 20% that of the surface area of the container bottom. The Office has not addressed this limitation, which is not found in the cited references. The Office has not made a prima facie case.

Dependent Claims 2, 7, 8, and 10 depend from Claim 1. Dependent Claims 12 – 18, 20 – 27, and 29 – 32 depend from claim 11. All the dependent claims should be allowable if their independent claims are allowable because they incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which they refer. 35 U.S.C. 112, para. 4.

For the foregoing reasons, the Applicant believes all the claims as amended are allowable. The Office is encouraged to telephone the Applicant’s attorney to quickly resolve any remaining issues.

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Respectfully submitted,

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